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## V CORPS' 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION TAKES PART IN HISTORY WITH ACTIVATION OF 4<sup>TH</sup> IRAQI ARMY DIVISION

By Spc. Sherree Casper  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**TIKRIT, Iraq** — V Corps' 1st Infantry Division took part in making history was here last week, when division members took part in a ceremony at the Iraqi Brotherhood Training Academy.

That ceremony established the 4th Iraqi Army Division, and coincided with the absorption of with all Iraqi National Guard units in the country into the sovereign nation's new army.

The historic event marked the 84th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army, said Lt. Gen. Abdul Azziz Abdul Rahman Al Mufti, commander of the newly established division.

Al Mufti was assisted by Capt. Abdul Samea in uncasing the division's colors during the ceremony to signify the unit's activation.



SGT ROLAND WALTERS  
Lt. Gen. Abdul Azziz, commander of the 4th Iraqi Army Division, addresses Iraqi and American guests and soldiers during a ceremony activating the 4th Iraqi Army Division at the Brotherhood Training Academy in Tikrit, Iraq January 6.

Originally established Jan. 6, 1921, Azziz said the Iraqi army was a symbol of determination and independence. On June 17, 2003, the army and the Ministry of Defense were dissolved. In September 2003, the Iraqi National Guard was established and connected to the Interior Ministry. The ING was made part of the Defense Ministry April 25, 2004.

"On this dear day, January 6, 2005, the National Guard joined the new Iraqi army, and we ask God to achieve his goals and that one of his priorities would be to protect the borders, for the honor and property of Iraqis, and to defend the holy sites of the country," Azziz remarked during the ceremony.

Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, commander of 1st Infantry Division, said the activation of the 4th Iraqi Army Division "represents all that is and what is meant to be in Iraq."

Batiste lauded the Iraqi soldiers' "rich ethno-religious diversity" as well as their "energy, courage and determination" in their fight to ensure freedom for their fellow citizens. He said the soldiers have "routinely demonstrated their ability to meet the insurgents head-on and defeat them."

Azziz has served Iraq since 1971, commanding armor units at company, battalion and brigade levels in war and peace. He has participated in 22 key campaigns and was wounded in action six times, Batiste said.

Batiste quoted Azziz in saying the Iraqi general is confident "that Iraq would be content, federalist, free, democratic and respectful of human rights."

